



BULLETIN

Volume 7, Issue 4

August 2002

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Henry L. Green

Statewide Codes One Year Later

As we approach a year under a single statewide code, I thought it appropriate to provide an early assessment of the first year. In July 2001, the delivery of the initial editions of the Michigan Codes was achieved, however, some will note that the demand for code books exceeded our expectations. The first adoption of the codes for statewide implementation included four codes in a Michigan version (building, residential, mechanical, and plumbing). As with any publication, certain "glitches" occurred in the printing and distribution, however, ultimately, all requests were filled. Note: The Michigan Electrical Code has been in effect statewide since December 7, 1999, however, it is printed in 2 separate documents (1999 National Electrical Code and the 1999 Part 8 Michigan amendments).

Response to the adoption of a single code has been very good, albeit not without concern and question. Code officials, builders, architects and engineers accepted the code and proceeded to use the code as appropriate. Some were more reluctant and wanted to continue using existing codes. This was undoubtedly based on familiarity with the codes in place rather than a rejection of the new codes. The codes are being accepted and used on a wide scale basis.

(Continued on Page 2)

Elevator Examination Requirements

*by Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Division*

The division has received many questions concerning the use of code books during examinations. These questions were generated from an article in the February issue of the BCC Bulletin. This is to clarify the issue. At this time, the Elevator Safety Division does not allow the use of code books during any examination. However, it is the intent of the division to redesign the examinations to allow an open book format in the future. The new open book format for examinations will be scheduled to coincide with the acceptance of the ASME A17.1-2000 code. It is hoped that the timeline for implementation of the new code will be early 2002. The open book examination format will start at that time. Some of the requirements for the new examination process are as follows:

- Each examinee will be responsible to supply the code book(s) used at the examination.
- Code books will be checked before and after each examination session to ensure the integrity of the examination is not compromised.
- Code books may contain index tabs; however, no other markings will be permitted within the code book. This includes highlighting, underlining, or text aids. Margin notes or other notations will not be permitted in code books during the examination process.
- Other materials such as extra paper, notes, or programmable calculators will not be permitted into the examination site.
- Each applicant should bring at least two sharpened #2 pencils. Silent non-printing calculators and a 1/4" scale are also permitted.
- Any violation of the examination site rules will result in the surrendering of the examination and the applicant will be asked to leave the examination site. The examination will not be graded and the applicant will have been considered as failing the examination.

Please keep in mind that elevator examinations will be comprised of questions from many different code books. This may result in a need to bring more than one code book to the examination. The requirements stated above pertain to all code books brought to the examination site. The effective date of the 2000 code and revised examination process will be provided in a future edition of the BCC Bulletin. This information will also be available on the bureau's web site at www.michigan.gov/cis.

Questions may be directed to the Elevator Division at 517/241-9337.



Director's Column, continued...

To date, we have not seen an overwhelming sense of appeals from local decisions to the State Construction Code Commission. This was a major concern raised in the adoption of a single statewide code. In fact, the decisions appealed to the Commission are few and far between. In some cases, it is a matter of understanding the application of the code and as we develop a better understanding of the code and how it is applied, these too will go without appeal.

The most important issue is understanding and education. As we continue to participate in educational programs, we develop the understanding necessary to apply the code as it was intended. Great reliance is placed on the information gained at the code development hearings. This is the place the inside information is provided. Documentation of the proceedings has provided a basis to provide solid and concise determinations in the application of the code.

We learned several lessons that will result in better performance as we proceed with the updating of the code in the next cycle. These lessons include how we

develop the code, review processes, and production of the final work product. In the development of codes and the adoption process, we strive to make the process as user friendly as possible. To achieve our goals, we often work hard to meet the requirements and rigors of the process, while meeting the needs of the users. The balance to achieve this goal is not without concern. As we develop the next generation of codes, your continued cooperation and understanding is requested. We also solicit your input on the codes and the process used to implement the codes.

Questions Regarding Electrical Examination Requirements

by Stella Morris, Chief
Electrical Division

The State of Michigan administers the journeyman and master examinations to approximately 3,200 applicants approved for the Lansing test site per year. Because of the number of applicants seeking approval to sit for the examination, we receive a high volume of calls regarding the process and procedures related to approval and denial of applications. Here are some common questions asked about the examination process.

"I sent my application in over a month ago and you've cashed my check. When will I be notified of the exam?"

If your application is approved, notification for the examination is mailed approximately 10 days before the examination. Denial letters are sometimes mailed out before the examination date; however, as the examination date draws closer, the high volume of applications slows down the process of getting the denial letters to the applicant. The denial letter will go out in time for the applicant to resubmit documentation for the next examination.

"What is required in the verification of experience letter?"

Letters of documentation are required to be notarized and contain the following: beginning and ending dates of

employment, type of work performed, total hours of employment (please do not include overtime hours), and a signature from the master of the employer, including his or her license number. This information is required to be provided on the employer's original letterhead.

"I work in a factory as an electrician and want to take the test. How do I qualify for the exam?"

When submitting an application you must provide a letter of verification of employment that indicates licensed supervision. In order to approve the application, an electrical affidavit including the name and license number of the master of record for the employer must be filed with the Electrical Division.

"When can I send in my application and documentation?"

If requirements are met for the specific type of license the applicant is applying for, the application may be submitted. If it is determined upon review that the applicant is lacking any requirement(s) the application will not be approved until all requirements are fulfilled, and the applicant may be required to resubmit documentation.

"What am I allowed to bring to the exam?"

Applicants are required to have an unmarked, non-highlighted code book (1999 NEC), two sharpened No. 2 pencils, a picture ID, and a calculator (programmable calculators are not allowed).

"Is there a deadline date for submitting an application for a particular exam?"

Yes, applications must be received no later than 20 business days before the examination. If an application is mailed even four days before the examination deadline date, it may not reach the office before the deadline because the materials must go through a receipting process. It is advisable to allow at least 7 days for an application to reach the office.

Questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at 517/241-9320.

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF
CONSTRUCTION
CODES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF CONSUMER &
INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 60,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, inspector registrants, manufactured home communities, installer/servicers, and retailers throughout the state.

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Boilers Under the Jurisdiction of P.A. 290

by Robert J. Aben, Jr., Chief
Boiler Division

Part of the scope of PA 290 is to regulate the use, construction, installation, and repair of boilers. With regard to the construction of boilers the law states that the department may adopt an existing publication known as the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The adoption of this publication is found in the following rules for the applicable application: R 408.4025, R 408.4027, R 408.4031 and R 408.4032. The intent of the boiler law and rules is to assure that only boilers built and properly stamped in accordance with the adopted ASME publication are installed and used in this state. The law and rules do exempt some locations and some boilers from the jurisdiction of PA 290 under section 7 of the law and R 408.4047 of the rules. In addition to the exemptions in the boiler law and rules, in 1996 the department issued a decision that water heaters with inputs under 200,000 btu/hr, regardless of use, are exempt from P A 290 of 1965. These devices are, however, regulated by either the Michigan Mechanical Code or the Michigan Residential Code. A review of the definitions in the law and rules are necessary to fully understand the exemptions.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at 517/241-9334.

Holiday Closings

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

September 2 - Labor Day
November 11 - Veterans' Day
November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving

Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Board of Mechanical Rules	Aug. 28	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Sept. 10	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
State Plumbing Board	Sept. 10	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Construction Code Commission	Sept. 11	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	Sept. 13	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Manufactured Housing Commission	Sept. 18	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Sept. 20	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Oct. 18	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	Oct. 30	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Manufactured Housing Commission	Oct. 30	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Oct. 30	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Construction Code Commission	Nov. 6	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	Nov. 8	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	Nov. 22	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos

License Exam Schedule

EXAMINATION	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency	Sept. 20	Okemos	Aug. 30
Journeyman Electrician	Sept. 26	Escanaba	Aug. 28
Master Electrician	Sept. 26	Escanaba	Aug. 28
Elevator Journeyperson	Oct. 16	Okemos	Sept. 27
Elevator Contractor & Certificate of Competency	Nov. 22	Okemos	Nov. 1
Mechanical Contractor	Dec. 3	Detroit	Nov. 5
Mechanical Contractor	Dec. 4	Detroit	Nov. 6
Master Plumber	Dec. 4	East Lansing	Nov. 15
Journey Plumber	Dec. 4	East Lansing	Nov. 15
Boiler Installer and Repairer	Dec. 4/5	Okemos	Nov. 4
Boiler Special Inspector	Dec. 4/5	Okemos	Nov. 4
Master Electrician	Dec. 12	Lansing	Nov. 12
Journeyman Electrician	Dec. 10/11	Lansing	Nov. 12

Dates and locations are subject to change.

Plumbing Inspector Registration Training and Plumbing Rule Committee Participation Request

by Robert G. Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division

The Bureau's Plumbing Division will be conducting an 8-hour inspector training class designed to address administrative, communication, technical, and specialty issues meeting Act 54 requirements. The class will be conducted at the bureau's administrative facility in Okemos on October 22, 2002. This class will be provided in lieu of the 16-hour fall class at Higgins Lake. Attendance and registration for the class will be handled by Robert Konyndyk, Chief, Plumbing Division, 517/241-9330.

The Plumbing Division is requesting participation in preparation for the 2003 code rule development cycle. Rule committee participants will be developing technical amendments to the code for the next code cycle through meetings at the bureau's Okemos office. Interested parties applying for committee membership must apply in writing to the division. The request should address experience levels and include a work history.

Questions may be directed to Robert Konyndyk, Chief, Plumbing Division, 517 /241-9330.

Notice To All Code Officials

by Scott D. Fisher
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

This article is intended to notify all registrants of an upcoming change in the expiration date of certain registration categories.

The changes are being implemented to comply with the requirements of the Michigan Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act, Public Act 54 of 1986, and to coordinate the expiration of registrations with the adoption of Michigan codes. Section 7 of the Act states, in part:

"A registered building official, plan reviewer, or inspector shall renew the registration at periods of not less than 3 years after the date of initial issue. The renewal shall coincide with the code change cycle. . ."

It is the intent of the Department to update the Michigan codes every three years (2000, 2003, 2006, etc.).

The changes are as follows:

1) All Building Official, Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector, Mechanical Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, and Plan Reviewer registrations that expire on September 17, 2002, will be renewed for a period of four years, rather than the customary three-year period. These registrations will then expire on September 17, 2006.

2) All Building Official, Building Inspector, Mechanical Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, and Plan Reviewer registrations that expire on September 17, 2003, will be renewed at that time for a three-year period, expiring on September 17, 2006.

3) Each individual code official will have one registration number recorded in the system. Therefore, if you currently have 2 registration numbers, the first number issued to you will be utilized after September 17, 2002. This change will affect approximately 70 registrants. For those individuals who have 2 numbers, upon renewal of the registration that expires September 17, 2002, the registration certificate will list ALL registration categories, followed by the appropriate expiration date.

Example: Fisher, Scott D.
Registration Number XXXXXX

Building Inspector: Exp. 09/17/2006
Mechanical Inspector: Exp. 9/17/2003
Plan Reviewer: Exp. 09/17/2006

This change does NOT affect any individual that currently has only one registration number.

Upon renewal in September 2002, all registrants whose registration certificates reflect a four-year expiration date after the registration category, will be required to obtain additional continuing education credits in the areas of Administration, Communication, Specialty, Technical, and/or Plan Review. The additional hours are one third of those hours required for a three-year cycle.

Credit statements will be forwarded to all registrants approximately 60 – 90 days after completion of the Bureau's 2002 registration renewal process. The credit statement will reflect the number of continuing education hours required to complete the four-year period.

Some examples of the required hours for the four-year cycle are:

BO only

Administration - 21
Communication - 3
Spec. (per inspector classification) - 11
Tech. (per inspector classification) - 32
Plan Review - 0

PR only:

Administration - 5
Communication - 2
Spec. (per inspector classification) - 8
Tech. (per inspector classification) - 32
Plan Review - 16

Inspector Only

Administration - 5
Communication - 2
Spec. (per inspector classification) - 24
Tech. (per inspector classification) - 32
Plan Review - 0

Inspector and PR

Administration - 5
Communication - 2
Spec. (per inspector classification) - 24
Tech. (per inspector classification) - 32
Plan Review - 16

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

Work Exempt From Permits

by Larry Lehman, Chief
Building Division

Section 105.2 and R105.2 of the 2000 Michigan Building and Residential Codes, respectively, provides exemptions from building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits. These sections of the codes are part of the 2000 Michigan code adoptions effective July 31, 2001. The only substantial change made in the Michigan amendments to these sections occurred in the mechanical portion of this section.

The bureau has received numerous inquiries relative to the applicability of local zoning ordinances that require permits where the code exempts the installation from permits. Section 8 of the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code provides for a single set of construction codes that are applicable throughout the state without local modification. Therefore, permits are not required when specifically exempted by Sections 105.2 and R105.2 of the Michigan Codes.

Zoning regulations that are not inconsistent with the act, such as the location of buildings to lot lines, may be enforced through local zoning ordinances, but not by requiring a building permit.

Questions may be directed to the Building Division at 517/241-9317.

Electrical Code Rules

The Bureau of Construction Codes is in the process of updating the Michigan Electrical Code. The bureau has developed a matrix detailing the new code and has scheduled a public forum to review the code changes. The public forum is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2002, 9:30 a.m. in the bureau's Okemos office located at 2501 Woodlake Circle. The notice and matrix may be found on the bureau's web site at www.michigan.gov/cis.

Questions regarding the new code may be addressed to the Electrical Division at 517/241-9320.

Manufactured Housing License Renewal

by Richard VanderMolen, Chief
Manufactured Housing and
Subdivision Control Division

The license year for all manufactured housing communities, installer/servicers, and retailers ends on September 30, 2002. Licensees must file renewal applications before October 1, 2002, in order to continue operating their businesses and avoid late fees equal to the licensing fees. A renewal application which is postmarked before October 1 will be accepted as having been filed before October 1.

The Manufactured Housing & Subdivision Control Division will send a renewal application to each licensee, at the mailing address in the license file, at the beginning of August. However, not receiving a renewal application does not excuse a licensee from renewing the license before October 1. Licensees are encouraged to renew their license as quickly as possible so they will have their new license before the current license expires.

Each type of manufactured housing license requires a renewal application and fee. Additionally, every community must obtain from its local taxing authority and submit with its renewal application verification that specific tax payments are current. The Division must also receive a certification of compliance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rules from the DEQ before a license may be issued.

To obtain a 2002/2003 license, an installer/servicer must have completed at least 6 hours of approved continuing education instruction between October 1, 2001, and September 30, 2002, and provide documentation verifying one million dollars of liability insurance. The division's licensing file must also contain documentation of current worker's compensation insurance, when applicable.

A retailer must have on file with the Division, a current salesperson disclosure statement. In addition, the license file must include a current surety bond and consumer deposit bond or permissible replacement for each.

Questions may be directed division at 517/241-6300.

Mechanical Hot Topics

by Tonnison B. Barry, Chief
Mechanical Division

MP Regulators

There has been a lot of discussion about MP Regulators and LP gas. Some inspectors have required LP installers to comply with Section 410.2 (MP Regulators) of the IFGC. Section 410.2 requires a shutoff valve upstream of the regulator. LP Dealers will tell you they do not install MP regulators. Research confirms this section is referring to natural gas, not LP. Therefore, inspectors cannot require a gas shutoff at the structure using 410.2 as the reason for the requirement.

Thermo-Pan

May Thermo-Pan be used as fire block for return air joist? The previous standard did not allow Thermo-Pan to be used as fire blocking in a return air joist. However, Thermo-Pan has a new product on the market which has been tested and approved with a flame-spread index of 25 and smoke index of 5, complying the requirements for class 1 duct materials. The new product may be used for fire blocking in return air plenums in residential construction and is marked with the flame spread and smoke index information, making it easy to distinguish from the original.

Section 404 (IFGC) Piping System Installation

Section 404 contains the requirements for the installation of gas piping. Section 404.1, Prohibited Locations, indicates that piping shall not be installed in or through a circulating air duct, clothes chute, chimney or gas vent, ventilating duct, dumbwaiter, or elevator shaft. The question asked is whether or not a location above a drop ceiling used as a return air plenum is included in the prohibited locations. NFPA 54 specifically addresses this issue and explains that gas piping can be installed in these types of locations. At first reading, one might think that return air plenums are included in the circulating air duct; however, after discussion with Greg Gress of BOCA, it is concluded this section does not prohibit the installation of gas piping in the location as described above. There is no conflict between NFPA 54 and IFGC.

Attic Loads

by Irvin J. Poke, Chief
Plan Review Division

Attic loads must be considered in the structural design of buildings in both the Michigan Building and Residential Codes (MBC and MRC). There are loading provisions for storage and non-storage attics in each code. MBC table 1607.1, item 27, requires application of a uniformly distributed load of 20 psf for uninhabitable attics with storage and 10 psf for uninhabitable attics without storage when designing the roof/ceiling system. The MBC provides no additional guidance when an uninhabitable attic is with or without storage. The designer determines this with confirmation by the code official.

MRC table R301.4 prescribes a loading of 10 psf for attics without storage and 20 psf for attics with storage. However, footnote "b" of the table states that an attic without storage cannot have a roof slope over 3 units in 12 units. Therefore, in the MRC attics with storage are defined as those with a roof slope greater than 3 units in 12 units. Given that there are no limits in the code it must be assumed that the attic load is applied over the entire area of the attic.

In all cases attic loads must be applied to the design of the roof/ceiling system. The provision in the MBC and MRC are consistent regarding required loading. MBC section 1605 and ASCE 7, section 2, require that the attic loads be applied concurrent with the other roof/ceiling loads affecting the structure. The construction documents and truss drawings must clearly identify these loads and the proper design analysis.

Questions may be directed to the Plan Review Division at 517/241-9328.

Our Web Site Has Changed

The new Consumer & Industry Services web site represents the latest enhancement to the award-winning Michigan.gov web portal. The new site, which is located at www.michigan.gov/cis includes many important features designed to increase citizens' access to Michigan's services. These features include a common look-and-feel, search engine, Quick Links, and links to Michigan's privacy and security policies.

Bureau Directory

Department of Consumer & Industry Services

Bureau of Construction Codes

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)
P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payments)
P.O. Box 30222 (Office of Local Government and Consumer Services)
P.O. Box 30703 (Manufactured Housing)
P.O. Box 30704 (Subdivision Control/Survey and Remonumentation Section)
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 241-9313

Fax Numbers:

Administration - (517) 241-9570
Codes - (517) 241-9308
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services - (517) 241-6371
Manufactured Housing and Subdivision Control - (517) 241-6301

Web site: www.michigan.gov/cis

Administration	(517) 241-9302
Office of Administrative Services	(517) 335-2972
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services	(517) 241-9347
Office of Management Services	(517) 241-9313
Boiler Division	(517) 241-9334
Building Division	(517) 241-9317
Electrical Division	(517) 241-9320
Elevator Division	(517) 241-9337
Manufactured Housing and Subdivision Control Division	
Manufactured Housing Program	(517) 241-6300
Subdivision Control Program	(517) 241-6300
Mechanical Division	(517) 241-9325
Plan Review/Barrier Free Design Division	
Plan Review	(517) 241-9328
Barrier Free Design	(517) 241-9300
Plumbing Division	(517) 241-9330

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